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**Haverhill Urban District**

In the

**Administrative County of West Suffolk**



**Annual Report**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

for the year

**1952**



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Haverhill Urban District for the Year 1952.

The Vital Statistics show no trend of any significance and none of the Notifiable Diseases reached epidemic proportions.

The Public Health Committee gave much thought to and expressed concern regarding the state of some of the old property in the town and the conditions in which the occupiers of these houses were living. The matter was dealt with in the main by re-housing many of the tenants and by obtaining undertakings from the owners concerned not to relet the property.

The handling and distribution of milk continued to be closely observed.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the year. My sincere thanks are due, too, to Mr. W. C. Blake, the Clerk of the Council, and to Mr. F. J. East, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.

### GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District ... ..	2,530 acres
Rateable Value ... ..	£20,323
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£78 4s. 8d.
Rates ... ..	19s. 10d.

(County Rate 13s., U D.C. Rate 6s. 10d.)

Number of inhabited houses ... ..	1,521
Estimated population ... ..	4,105
Census 1951 ... ..	4,096

The industrial activities of the town are varied and comprise the manufacture of ready-made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. The manufacture of tooth and other brushes also provides occupation for large numbers. Electrical plant is manufactured and other factories produce steam ploughing and harvesting machinery, plant for sharpening lawn mowers and repairs to harvesting machinery. Rope, tarpaulins and marquees are also manufactured.

There are no industries or occupations that are likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the health of the employees or that of the general public. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly.

## SECTION B.

### EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(Figures in brackets refer to the previous year).

#### *Live Births:*

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	(32) 33	(20) 26	(52) 59
Illegitimate ... ..	(0) 1	(0) 1	(0) 2

Totals ...	(32) 34	(20) 27	(52) 61
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Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population...	14.9
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	16.4
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ...	15.3
Proportion of illegitimate births to legitimate live births (2%)	3.2%

*Still Births:* Nil.

*Deaths :*

	Total		Male		Female		
	(60)	80	(26)	36	(34)	44	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... ..							(14.6) 19.5
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... ..							15.0
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)							(12.5) 11.3
Deaths resulting from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion							Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Total		Male		Female	
Legitimate ... ..	(3)	3	(1)	2	(2)	1
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	(3)	3	(1)	2	(2)	1

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	(57.5)	49.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	(57.5)	50.8
“ “ “ “ (England and Wales)		27.6

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

Disease	Male		Female		Total
Cancer (all types) ... ..	(2)	5	(9)	6	(11) 11
Diabetes ... ..	(1)	1	(0)	1	(1) 2
Vascular Lesions					
of the nervous system	(3)	4	(2)	7	(5) 11
Heart Disease ... ..	(9)	14	(12)	16	(21) 30
Pneumonia ... ..	(3)	2	(6)	5	(9) 7
Bronchitis ... ..	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0) 0
Influenza ... ..	(4)	0	(0)	0	(4) 0
Ulcer of stomach & deudenum	(0)	0	(1)	0	(0) 0
Motor vehicle accidents ...	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1) 0
Other Accidents ... ..	(1)	1	(1)	0	(2) 1
Suicide ... ..		0		1	1
Other and ill-defined diseases	(2)	0	(4)	17	(6) 17
Total ... ..	(26)	36	(34)	44	(60) 80

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1952 :

	1942	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49-	-50	-51	-52
Birth Rates	12.8	15.6	19.8	16.5	16.8	21.9	15.5	15.2	15.8	12.7	14.9
Death Rates	13.8	13.8	14.9	15.1	13.9	17.5	12.5	13.7	16.8	14.6	19.5

## SECTION C.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no alterations to report in any of the general arrangements.

#### *Public Health Officers of the Authority :*

- (a) Dr. G. P. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., whole time Medical Officer of Health (is also M.O.H. to several other local authorities).
- (b) Mr. P. T. Rake, M.B.E., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

#### *Hospitals :*

There are no hospitals within the area.

#### *Ambulance facilities :*

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance services.

#### *Nursing in the Home :*

District Nurses are supplied for nursing and midwifery duties.

#### *Infant Welfare :*

A welfare clinic is held twice monthly (2nd and 4th Thursdays) and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

## SECTION D.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### *Water Supply :*

The Waterworks are situated in Camps Road on the West side of the Town, the floor level of the Pump House is 279.50 feet above O.D. The supply is obtained from the chalk and consists of a well 7 feet in diameter, 103 feet deep, with two headings each 25 feet long running North and South ; there are 3 boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet from surface level, one through the South heading 10½ inch diameter and another 18 inch diameter through the North heading to a depth of 350 feet and 360 feet from surface level.

A test pump when the 18 inch bore was sunk in 1944 showed an ample yield of water up to 26,500 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below the surface level.

### *Pumping Machinery :*

There are three distinct sets of pumps, each with its own method of raising the water.

Originally a deep well was sunk with two diametrically opposed addits leading off this main shaft. Operating in this original shaft are duplicate three throw pumps with suction level 100 ft. below surface level. Two bore holes pass through and beyond the addits and in one of them operates a reciprocating type bore hole pump—suction level 175 ft. below surface level and delivering approximately 10,000 galls. per hour. Both these pumps are powered from duplicate sets of 24 B.H.P. Crossley Diesel Engines.

In 1951 a vertical spindle centrifugal pump was installed in the other bore hole—this raises approximately 15,000 galls. an hour and is powered by a 37 h.p. electric motor.

All water is chlorinated either by liquid or gaseous chlorine.

Water from the pumps is conveyed to a 150,000 galls. reservoir with a top water level of 350 ft. above O.D. This reservoir is not sufficiently elevated to supply possible future development on high ground, and the storage (one day's supply) is inadequate, and elevated and increased storage will have to be provided at some time in the future.

### *Number of Dwelling Houses Connected with Mains :*

(a) Within the U.D.C. area	...	...	...	1458
(b) Outside the area..	...	...	...	19
Length of mains	...	...	...	8½ miles

### *Number of houses not connected to mains :*

(a) Within reach	...	...	...	—
(b) Not within reach	...	...	...	8

The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses)	...	...	...	6%
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### *Purity of the Water :*

Frequent samples are sent for bacteriological examinations. There has been no variation from the standard type of report reproduced here.

The water shows no tendency to plumbo-solvency.



The following is a copy of a Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water by the :

Counties Public Health Laboratories,  
66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

Number of Colonies developing on

Agar per c.c. or ml. in	...	1 day at 37° C. 0	2 days at 37° C. 0	3 days at 20° C. 5
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Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in -	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water carries no excess of mineral constituents in solution but is extremely hard in character. The hardness is not such as to render the supply unwholesome, but it will make it disadvantageous for laundry and similar use. The water is of the highest standard of organic and and bacterial purity.

Apart from the objectionable hardness the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(signed) GORDON MILES.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The chemical examination showed little variation from previous analyses.

The water is chlorinated.

#### *Water Charges :*

The charges for water are 1/5d. per 1,000 gallons with reductions on quantity.

1/8d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10/- p.a.

The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells 1948 to 1952 inclusive :—

1948	{ Maximum level, March ...	...	202.00ft. above O.D.
	{ Minimum level, January	...	197.40ft. " "
1949	{ Maximum level, March ...	...	200.55ft. " "
	{ Minimum level, October	...	193.75ft. " "
1950	{ Maximum level, March ...	...	200.50ft. " "
	{ Minimum level, November	...	193.65ft. " "
1951	{ Maximum level, May ...	...	208.75ft. " "
	{ Minimum level, January...	...	197.00ft. " "
1952	{ Maximum level, April ...	...	204.34ft. " "
	{ Minimum level, October...	...	195.50ft. " "

The average daily consumption of water per head was 38 galls.



Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks during the last five years as compared with 1952 :—

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
JAN.	1.90	2.07	1.38	0.81	3.64	1.56
FEB.	0.88	3.53	3.49	1.11	0.91	1.64
MAR.	2.80	3.30	0.45	0.75	0.90	4.47
APRIL	1.19	3.07	1.73	1.44	1.80	1.80
MAY	0.94	2.51	2.07	2.76	3.00	0.48
JUNE	1.47	1.57	1.05	0.82	2.89	2.98
JULY	0.88	0.98	3.07	0.91	2.00	1.93
AUG.	3.14	2.88	1.70	1.39	4.01	0.12
SEPT.	2.46	2.78	3.02	0.51	1.27	1.13
OCT.	2.05	1.08	0.57	4.64	1.62	0.24
NOV.	3.79	3.87	4.07	1.72	1.69	1.25
DEC.	2.36	1.56	1.37	1.70	1.50	2.75
Totals	23.86	29.20	23.97	18.56	25.23	20.35

Snow or rain was recorded on 162 days. The greatest rainfall was for 24 hours ending 9 a.m. November 22nd ; when 0.80 inch was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 23.86 inches.

#### *Open-Air Swimming Bath :*

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the Town, the dimensions are 75ft. x 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

The charges are 12/- for Adult season ticket and 6/- for Juniors, 9d. for Adults and 4d. for Juniors admission. 28 Adult and 177 Junior Season tickets were sold. In addition 1,682 Adults and 2,621 Juniors paid for admission.

Morning periods are reserved for use of Schools during the Summer term.

#### *Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :*

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the east side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters, with final treatment on 7 acres of land, all underdrained ; three acres are terraced.

The Pumping Plant consists of Diesel Oil Engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour :

Number of dwelling houses connected with sewers ...	1424
Number of dwelling houses not connected with sewers...	58
(None of which is within reach of the sewers).	

#### *House Scavenging :*

Collections are made weekly from about 1540 premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused pit.

The provision of sanitary dustbins was made compulsory in 1938.

#### SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of Inspections ... ..	95
Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..	1
Number of Informal Notices served... ..	21

#### *Housing :*

During the year 14 3-bedroom houses were completed on the Duddery Hill site, and 8 2-bedroom houses and 4 Duplex flats were completed at Parkway Estate.

A further 6 3-bedroom houses, 7 2-bedroom houses, and 4 2-bedroom bungalows were under construction at Parkway Estate. The Council now own :—

273 3-bedroom houses
8 2-bedroom houses
12 2-bedroom bungalows
16 1-bedroom bungalows
16 Duplex flats
10 pre-fabricated 2-bedroom bungalows
11 Army huts converted into 2-bedroom dwellings
11 other houses purchased by the Council

Total 357

#### SECTION E.

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1952 is shown in the following table :—

TABLE I.

	.42	.43	.44	.45	.46	.47	.48	.49	.50	.51	.52
Diphtheria ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	10	1	1	10	3	—	—	—	4	4	4
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles... ..	—	42	—	2	11	1	251	—	—	31	7
Whooping cough	—	18	—	—	4	1	5	3	44	13	—
Pneumonia ...	6	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
Totals ...	16	65	9	12	20	2	256	4	49	49	12

No deaths resulted from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles or Whooping Cough. One death resulted from Diarrhoea and Enteritis.

# ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1-2		1			2			
3-4					2			
5-9	1	1			2	1		
10-14		1						
15-24								
25+								1
Unknown								
TOTALS ..	1	3			6	1		1

## SECTION G.

### TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	10	5	15	3	1	4	19
No. of cases added during the year .. .. .	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
No. of cases removed during year .. .. .	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
No. remaining on register at end of year .. .. .	9	5	14	3	1	4	18

The reason for one removal from register was death, the second left the district.

There was one death of a non-notified case.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

# SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

## PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	1	11				1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	2	36	4			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises) .. ..	3	3				3
TOTAL .. ..		50	4			

## 2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9						9
(a) insufficient ... ..	10	1	1				10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	11						11
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	12						12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..							
TOTAL ... ..	60	1	1				60

Sections 110 and 111.

*Outwork :*

60 persons are recorded as doing out work. All are employed in the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

SECTION I.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

*Section 47.*—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





